

Habitat for Humanity Gets Land Gift

By SUSANNA SHEEHAN

Duxbury voters proved that charity starts at home when they unanimously agreed to

**Town
Meeting
2000**

give up a piece of town land for a Habitat for Humanity house at the Monday night town meeting.

Ken Meyers, co-chairman of the ad hoc Duxbury Habitat Committee, told voters that giving the land to Habitat for Humanity so it could build a three-bedroom home for a Duxbury resident was "a good thing to do."

"You and I are the owners of the town's assets," Meyers said. "As owners, we can decide how the land can be utilized. I'm talking about reaching into our community and giving our neighbors a helping hand."

Habitat for Humanity is a non-profit organization that builds affordable housing for families who couldn't otherwise own homes. Volunteers build or renovate homes that are then sold to families se-

lected by Habitat for Humanity, which provides long-term, no-interest mortgages. The families are required to put in 500 hours of sweat equity into their home or another Habitat project. Sixteen south shore towns have Habitat for Humanity homes.

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**Ken Meyers
Duxbury Habitat Committee**

Polly Harrington of the Fiscal Advisory Committee said that many outside Duxbury believed the town was "elitist and exclusive." She urged voters to support Article 27 because "passage of this article will dispel this view."

"This article provides us with a unique opportunity to support an organization making a real effort to provide much needed housing," said Harrington.

George Wadsworth of the

planning board said: "I think it's in our best interest to do this." He added that one of the goals of the new Comprehensive Plan was to add more diversified housing in Duxbury.

The property is on Tremont St. across from Bow St. near Alden St. According to Joe Lewis of the Finance Committee, this land was the only one of the town's 200 properties that did not carry restrictions, have title problems, or need a variance from the zoning board of appeals.

The town committee along with Habitat for Humanity plans to build a modest home and select a Duxbury family who will be "rigorously screened" and must meet income guidelines as well as prove they can be socially and financially responsible, said Meyers. He said that there are 300 households with incomes of less than \$30,000 in Duxbury. Most likely the new homeowners will be people who now rent.

The project will take nine months to complete, said Meyers.